



State Representative
Lois McMahan

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Election year restrictions:

Please remember when writing me that if you would like a written response, please specify this. I am currently under election-year mailing restrictions. Those restrictions allow me to send this and one other newsletter this year. However, the law does not allow me to otherwise initiate correspondence without a specific request. So please ask! Thank you!

2004 Legislative Update

District 26 • Serving Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, Olalla, Purdy, Burley, Port Orchard, Southworth & Bremerton



State Representative **Lois McMahan**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2004 legislative session began Jan. 12. We have many issues to address in this 60-day session. I am encouraged, though, that the Legislature will actually achieve some positive action for the people of this state by what I see as a desire to address their needs.

As usual, the most prominent issue will be the budget. Our caucus continues its commitment to a sustainable budget that cares for the needs of the most vulnerable in our society. We also expect to see the usual adjustments for caseload and emerging and unforeseen needs. We are committed to building a "rainy day fund" with the increasing and fresh awareness that rainy days DO come.

Our economy is still very fragile. I believe we should continue to resist additional spending and hold the line against tax increases. I want to give our economy in this state a chance to catch up to the rebounding economy across the nation!

Besides budget issues, my top priority will be to adopt policies that improve our business climate and attract new jobs to the private sector.

Also at the top of my list are local issues, including the "early" completion of the Burley-Olalla interchange. I am introducing legislation to deal with several problems brought to my attention by various people living in the 26th District. This newsletter provides a brief glimpse of the issues and challenges before us in the 2004 session.

As always, I invite your calls, letters and e-mails. They are important to me and help me represent your interests here in Olympia.

Joyfully serving you,

Lois McMahan

Representative Lois McMahan

CREATING JOBS

Tax incentives create employment opportunities

Boeing's decision to build the 7E7 in Washington was largely the result of the Legislature providing tax breaks to the company to create jobs. People ask me what the Legislature plans to do for small businesses that don't have Boeing's clout? *It's a good question.*

I asked Boeing's CEO that same question, and he renewed Boeing's commitment to make Washington more business-friendly for everyone.

When I visited neighborhoods across the district in 2002, I was amazed at how many new small businesses have popped up in our district, especially those operating from peoples' homes. Small business accounts for most of our local employment. That's why I believe we need to do all we can to support small businesses so they can grow and create new jobs.



This year, we're looking at increasing small business tax credits, providing a freeze in the state's minimum wage (which is the highest in the nation), reforming workers' compensation to bring the costs down, and extending tax credits that companies are using to provide jobs.

EDUCATION

McMahan leads efforts against over-regulation on school districts

We are micro-managing our local schools. Compliance with the two-inch-thick Common School Manual costs the local districts immense amounts of money. I am introducing a bill this year (a follow-up to last year's unfunded mandate

bill, **House Bill 1043**) that relieves local schools of all the mandates and reporting, except those having to do with employment, attendance, health, safety, civil rights, discipline, testing, parental rights, and home schooling. It has long been my goal to get more state education dollars to the classroom to eliminate the NEED for levies.



Rep. Lois McMahan speaks to the House Education Committee.

TRANSPORTATION

Burley-Olalla interchange: Making sure promises made are promises kept

Anyone who has driven through the Burley-Olalla crossing on Highway 16 knows this is one of the most dangerous intersections in the state.

I have been heavily involved with the Olalla and Burley communities in working to move up construction on the new interchange. Currently, the construction date is set for 2010. This is unacceptable. I am determined to do what I can to get construction of this interchange moved up BEFORE the opening of the second Narrows Bridge in 2007.

When the Legislature met for a one-day special session Dec. 5 to cancel the state's 2004 presidential primary, I used the opportunity to offer an amendment that would have used the \$6.2 million savings from that cancellation for the Burley-Olalla interchange. Legislative leaders were not anxious to have amendments offered on an otherwise amendment-free presidential primary election bill. That put me in a strong negotiating position.

I told House Transportation Chairman Ed Murray that I would remove the amendment if he promised me he would help me find the money to accelerate construction of the interchange. He made the promise and I plan to hold him to it this session. My caucus leadership has also committed to helping me reach this goal.



2004 Legislative Update

PUBLIC SAFETY

Cracking down on commercial voyeurs

Up-skirt photography got quite a bit of attention last year. We passed a bill which made up-skirt and down-blouse photography a crime if done for erotic purposes. Through committee



testimony, we learned that sometimes these pictures are taken to sell.

Not wanting to have a further loophole in the law, I introduced an amendment in the House that would make taking these photos for commercial purposes a crime as well. Unfortunately, the Senate saw fit to take off the amendment before passing the bill. I am introducing that simple amendment as a bill this year (*House Bill 2304*) to close this loophole.

Slam the doors on sex molesters of children

Two recent cases in our area have highlighted the need to have minimum sentences for sex crimes

against children. It's hard to imagine the anguish suffered by these victims and their families.



Families tell me they want the perpetrators of such crimes behind bars where they can't hurt another child. Molested and raped children have to live with that memory for the rest of their lives. They are more likely to be able to live a normal life if they believe justice has been done. That's why I have introduced *House Bill 2400* to set mandatory minimum incarceration for sex crimes against children.

Under the lowest ranking, Class D, the penalty would be a minimum of three years imprisonment. A Class A felony would carry a minimum of 10 years in prison. It's time to protect the innocent by slamming the doors on these criminals.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Cosmetologists should get make-up time

I have been working with local cosmetologists who were surprised at changes to the state law that became effective last July. The Department of Licensing was supposed to notify every cosmetologist of the new licensing requirements. Instead, it sent notifications to cosmetology shops, not to individual licensees. That created much confusion by the licensees and put them at risk for losing their licenses. To ensure these jobs remain protected, I have introduced *House Bill 2305*, a measure that would require the Department of Licensing to individually notify licensees of changes in the law and extend the period for "grandfathering."

2004 Honorary Pages

Many thanks to the young people from our district who are serving this year as pages or honorary pages at the Capitol. For more information about the page program, call my office at 360-786-7802.



Paige Brisbane



Cole Brisbane



Haaken Wagner



Jacob Wagner

Rep. McMahan schedules town hall meetings

Please join me for a town hall meeting. Feel free to come to one or both meetings.

Pierce County

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:00-11:00 am
Pierce County Fire District #5
Administration Building, **Cedar Room**
10222 Bujacich Rd NW
Gig Harbor, WA

Kitsap County

Saturday, Feb 21, 2:00-3:00 pm
Givens Community Center, **Sidney Room**
1026 Sidney Ave
Port Orchard, WA

For more information, contact Rep. McMahan's Olympia legislative office at: 360-786-7802 or leave a message on the Toll-Free Hotline for a return call: 1-800-562-6000.

Representative Lois McMahan

2004 Legislative Agenda - Creating jobs and restoring public trust

I have joined with the House Republican Caucus to develop a legislative agenda that will help Washington get back on track in four key areas:

- ✓ **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY** - We must ensure that the state ends this biennium with an operating budget that is sustainable and does not require tax increases or a reduction in core state services. The Legislature must also strengthen the state's spending limit and create a reliable, constitutional "rainy day" fund.
- ✓ **COMPETITIVENESS** - The Legislature should work on creating a business climate that fosters a growing economy. With signs that the U.S. economy is rebounding, it is imperative that we position our state to participate in the economic expansion.

- ✓ **AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE** - While the vast majority of people have health care coverage, the skyrocketing cost of that coverage is creating a crisis. The solution is by enacting insurance reforms that will help control costs, thereby enabling employers to provide coverage for their employees. Liability reforms are also needed to reduce the cost of malpractice insurance, which is driving doctors out of our state or causing them to retire early.
- ✓ **EDUCATION** - We provide our students with a world-class education. To accomplish this, we need to improve and offer alternatives to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) and recruit, retain and reward quality teachers.

For more information on my legislative priorities, visit my website at:
<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/mcmahan.htm>

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